

## State of Arizona

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## Statement from Governor Jan Brewer Celebrating Independence Day

"The Fourth of July is an occasion for celebration, reflection and appreciation, as Americans from all corners of the United States gather with friends and family to commemorate our nation's independence. I encourage all Arizonans to take a moment to remember the true meaning of this important anniversary, and to recognize how blessed we are to live in the greatest nation on Earth.

"From our courageous and visionary Founding Fathers, who risked everything to secure our sovereignty – to the brave and noble men and women of our Armed Services, who continue to risk everything to preserve it – we are reminded that freedom is not free, nor easily won. For more than two centuries, honorable patriots have fought to preserve our unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. As Americans, we owe it to them to continue to stand up and defend the country built by those before us – a republic that values individual rights, self-government and respect for the rule of law. These principles, too often taken for granted, are what drive our democracy and make America exceptional.

"On this and every Independence Day, let us honor our forefathers, salute our men and women in uniform and resolve to carry on their mission to keep America free. I wish all Arizonans a wonderful and safe holiday weekend. Happy Fourth of July!"

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